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Document E
GMA 11098

20 April 1954

Subject : GDR Border Control Information

Date Received : 8 April 1954

Source : ☐ ☐

Sub-Source : 5-F-4

Evaluation : C-3

1. Sub-Source gave the following information about events in the GDR. Sub-Source obtained the information from Czech refugees with whom he had to deal as a police official. Asked about the names of the persons concerned, Sub-Source said that, for the time being, he could not divulge them for official reasons since proceedings were still pending.
2. Approximately in January 1954, black-uniformed Komsomolers were assigned to the GDR border areas. They control both the security orders and the military units of a specific sector. Also, they have unrestricted authorities, and it is their mission to make illegal border crossing impossible by all means. The population calls them so-called "death Komsomolers".
3. The 4-km wide fortified border protection zone around the whole of GERMANSCHTA (also in the East) is now being reduced to 2 kilometers. A 15-meter wide arable strip, which shows every trace, is provided on the nuclear point. Despite a triple wire entanglement, innumerable alarm installations and numerous mine fields, the border control personnel will also be reinforced. In addition to the old border police units, military contingents will now be assigned. The latter will occupy their positions at nightfall and will be shifted out in the evening hours. Their assignment is regulated by a plan which keeps the action area secret until the last moment and prevents early notification of the population. Work on the new border fortifications was begun in mid-March.
4. According to additional statements by Sub-Source, special units of the Hungarian Army have supposedly been stationed in the GDR for some time, where they are being trained in the use of weapons of Soviet origin.

11-5-EGMA-11098

2007-231-13

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